





THE DUTIES ON MALWA OPIUM.

MONDAY MEMORIAL TO THE VICE-ROY OF INDIA.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Frederick Temple, K.C.M.G., P.C., &c., &c., Vice-roy and Governor-General of India in Council.

The Humble Memorial of the undersigned Opium Merchants of Bombay.

Sheweth, That your memorialists are deeply interested in the trade in Malwa Opium, being a great extent dependent on it, and they venture, therefore, to call the attention of your Excellency in Council to the present precarious position of this valuable trade in the hope that Government will recognize the importance of doing what is necessary to place it on a more assured basis.

2.—For some time past the price of Malwa Opium in Bombay has ranged from Rs. 1,150 to Rs. 1,200 per mace, and your memorialists therefrom the amount of Government duty, Rs. 550, and the expenses incurred in bringing the drug from the producing districts—while with the important increase in the price of the opium, the duty has remained fixed at the rate of Rs. 450 or 400 per mace, and your memorialists humbly submit that this is not an adequate price.

3.—The trade between the producing districts and Bombay, and that between Bombay and China, are both being carried on under equally unfavourable circumstances, as the prices current here show a loss on the cost of the drug, while the rates of exchange in China are lower than the prices paid in Bombay, so that it is not that this trade is mainly in the hands of large capitalists its dimensions will inevitably have been much curtailed in consequence of this.

4.—Hitherto your memorialists have been sustained by the hope of seeing an improvement in the prices realized in China, but from the over increasing production of opium in that country, and the unfavourable reports on the prospects of imported opium, which are continually received from both official and private sources, it is impossible any longer to indulge in vain anticipations of improvement in this respect.

5.—The trade has further suffered since last year on account of the Chinese Government having raised the duties on foreign opium from 100 to 120 per cent, and your memorialists have been obliged to pay to the Imperial Chinese Government as much as it is levied on Chinese soil.

6.—A chest of Malwa Opium now sent to pay to the Imperial Chinese Government as much as it is levied on Chinese soil.

Customs duty, Hs. 110, 30, or 50, or 100, or 120, or 150, or 180, or 200, or 250, or 300, or 350, or 400, or 450, or 500, or 550, or 600, or 650, or 700, or 750, or 800, or 850, or 900, or 950, or 1,000, or 1,050, or 1,100, or 1,150, or 1,200, or 1,250, or 1,300, or 1,350, or 1,400, or 1,450, or 1,500, or 1,550, or 1,600, or 1,650, or 1,700, or 1,750, or 1,800, or 1,850, or 1,900, or 1,950, or 2,000, or 2,050, or 2,100, or 2,150, or 2,200, or 2,250, or 2,300, or 2,350, or 2,400, or 2,450, or 2,500, or 2,550, or 2,600, or 2,650, or 2,700, or 2,750, or 2,800, or 2,850, or 2,900, or 2,950, or 3,000, or 3,050, or 3,100, or 3,150, or 3,200, or 3,250, or 3,300, or 3,350, or 3,400, or 3,450, or 3,500, or 3,550, or 3,600, or 3,650, or 3,700, or 3,750, or 3,800, or 3,850, or 3,900, or 3,950, or 4,000, or 4,050, or 4,100, or 4,150, or 4,200, or 4,250, or 4,300, or 4,350, or 4,400, or 4,450, or 4,500, or 4,550, or 4,600, or 4,650, or 4,700, or 4,750, or 4,800, or 4,850, or 4,900, or 4,950, or 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